

Marine litter: What role for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?

Thursday 22 November 2018, 12:30-15:00
Room A1G2, European Parliament, Brussels

Co-chaired by:

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“Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development”

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In collaboration with the EPR Club

Vast amounts of plastic enter the oceans each year, with unforeseeable consequences for the environment and biological life. Marine litter has become the most visible and the most alarming side effect of the linear plastics economies. Rising public awareness has pushed the marine litter problem high on the political agenda. The publication of the EU Plastics Strategy in January 2018 has created additional momentum.

Rising pressure on policy makers to tackle the marine litter problem has put the spotlight on apparently easy and quick solutions, such as the use of bioplastics, clean-up measures and the ban of single-use plastic products. Promoting these solutions is helpful to raise public awareness, but it also distracts from the real challenges that require a broader approach, inter alia with an international dimension.

Marine litter can only be effectively addressed and tackled by implementing circular economy solutions on all levels worldwide. It requires a shift in mindset and the implementation of circular economy principles, such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). These incentivise and drive the necessary changes along the lifecycle of products and packaging – covering design, consumption and post-consumption stages, including a functioning and holistic waste management infrastructure. International cooperation on marine litter will also play a crucial role in disseminating best practices and driving change.

The EPR Club International Conference 2018 is hosted under the Intergroup on “Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development” and organised on initiative of ACR+ (Association of Cities and Regions for Sustainable Resource Management); DSD (Der Grüne Punkt Duales System Deutschland); EXPRA (Extended Producer Responsibility Alliance) and SUEZ, members of the EPR Club – a multi-stakeholder platform for exchange of information and debate about Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) issues in Europe. The event takes place during the European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) which aims to promote sustainable resource and waste management on a European scale.

DRAFT AGENDA

- 11:30-12:00** **Registration**
- 12:00-12:30** **Networking lunch will be served inside the meeting room**
- 12:30-12:40** **Welcome and opening**
Jytte Guteland MEP
Fredrick Federley MEP
Françoise Bonnet, EPR Club Secretariat
- 12:40-12:55** **Keynote speech**
Jyrki Katainen, Vice-President of the European Commission
- 12:55- 13:50** **Panel 1: Marine Litter: “EPR as driver of the circularity of packaging”**
moderated by Jytte Guteland MEP
- **European Commission:** Silvjia Aile, Deputy Head of Unit, Waste Management & Secondary Materials Unit, DG ENV
 - **Public authorities:** Françoise Bonnet, Secretary General ACR+
 - **Producer responsibility organisations:** Helmut Schmitz, Director Communication-Public Affairs at DSD; Sara Güemes Santos, Libera Programme Coordinator at Ecoembes & Miguel Muñoz, Libera Programme Coordinator at SeoBirdLife
 - **NGO:** Delphine Lévi Alvarès, European coordinator of the #BreakFreeFromPlastic movement at Zero Waste Europe
- Questions and discussion with the audience**
- 13:50:14:45** **Panel 2: Micro Plastics: “EPR as a driver of sustainable product design”**
moderated by Maria Spyraiki MEP
- **European Commission:** Silvjia Aile, Deputy Head of Unit, Waste Management & Secondary Materials Unit, DG ENV
 - **Producer/Textile brand owner:** Mauro Scalia, Director Sustainable Businesses, European Apparel and Textile Confederation
 - **Waste water service industry:** Oliver Loebel, Secretary General EurEau
 - **NGO:** Stephane Arditì, Policy Manager on Circular Economy, Products and Waste at European Environmental Bureau
 - **Think Tank:** Susanna Gionfra, Policy Analyst, IEEP
- Questions and discussion with the audience**
- 14:45-15:00** **Concluding remarks by Maria Spyraiki MEP**